Dear Howard, 5/20/74

First let me say that nothing in your letter in any way influences my affectionm, regard and respect for you. Next, there is no surprise. Next, I am certain, although I cannot now consult her because she is working, I am confident she will feel the same way. And finally, enclosed if the $500 check signed over to you. I'll explain a little more about Dick Gallen later and when you are here you can read the file if you'd like to.

My concern, and again I am certain this can be taken as ours, is for your happiness.

As I am sure you know, my feelings toward you have been part brotherly, part fatherly. If to this you add the fact that despite your opening, I tell you that you do not surprise me, then you know what your letter seems to assume, that what you say makes no difference in my feelings. It does not and it will not.

So you can understand my assumptions about Lil - and I will mail this when I go to pick her up - let me tell you a story. She spent some years working for a pair of male homsexuals who exploited her unconscionably. They were also, as human beings, less than the most desireable types. Also working for them was a homosexual who I had known earlier and come to dislike for other reasons. It was not until later than I learned he was homosexual. (He was in radio when I knew him 5-10 years earlier.) Despite all the solid reasons Lil had to dislike these men, and despite the adverse comments she made from time to time, she never once made any nasty cracks about their homosexuality. As a matter of fact, now that I think back, she disliked only one, the dominant one.

At this point, an hour ago, I was interrupted by a long phone conversation with one of the authors of the London Sunday Times' Watergate book who spoke to me about the visit here by their medical correspondent a week ago. This man, Chester, has flown to the US, just got here and phoned immediately. It is the super-acid test because I am talking about that which he and two other reporters missed! So, don't build any hopes, as I don't.

Still another long interruption, conversation with Lesar.

What a phone day! Another with one of the student group, who is offering to help me until her kids are out of school for the summer. And the letter from Dick, enclosing the check, says he would phone today. And it is now but two hours before I leave to pick Lil up. So, before there can be more or too many more, let me try to address two things that should be on your mind about this project.

I met Dick when he ran Parallax. This was some time after they published The Autobiography of Malcolm X. Had nother one there not had a friendly relationship with Newman, they'd have done WW immediately. They liked it. His meeting with me was on WWII, when he could not make a good enough offer and I didn't ake it. When Dell copped out on O in NO and I could do nothing else with it, he did it, but months later than planned. This seems to have been because Simon & Schuster, which distributed for Parallax through Pocket Books, would not touch the subject. Thereafter we became good friends and I stayed with him when I was in NYC. Then we were out of touch for a long time. He is a lawyer in publishing and was counsel for Grove. After having been for Dell. It is he who took I am Curious Yellow to the Supreme Court. He left Parallax, I guess to make more money (and has) and, although we have never discussed it, to become an entrepreneur in addition to a lawyer. The name on the check is new and unknown to me. It could mean anything or nothing in business or publishing. However, I take his check as evidence of good faith because it is based on my word only and was written when I was thinking of a crew of local students, before I thought of you.

This is the only cash involved. There is none for me now. Nor will there be unless the book is a success. The one consideration for me is that if he goes ahead I will get a decent mower so I can save my failing enegery and scarce time. Thereafter, there will be a profit division, and if I don't get gypped on that there are three moons. In publishing it is inevitable. However, when he agreed to this sum for the students, he also agreed that if the book succeeds there will be a bonus. I was not then and am not now able to

be specific. It is premature. It would come from him and me because he anticipates having to give a third interest to get decent distribution. (I have no further knowledge about distribution except that aside from advertising and promotion it is the key to success.) If and when we get to that point, I will make further inquiry.

I will, however, go further. Assuming there is a bonus and that you are then not satisfied, I think I will be able to because it would mean that I will have a share from which I can. This is another reason for you to keep some kind of time record, not necessarily precise to the minute but to give you an idea of how much time you have put into it. Also, there should be an initial record to justify to Dick the expenditure of his money.

All projects are initially hazy. Hasty ones, and this certainly is, are fuzzier. Improvisations even more so. However, you will recall my asking if you had submitted your thesis to Fairleigh-Dickinson. This was so that you could be credited on this one with no contractual hazard. I am assuming you will went this (with the option of declining it should you, for any reason, not be satisfied with the end product, which I do not anticipate, knowing that Dick was bitterly anti-VW im 1967) and I think you will have more than earned it because in my present state you will be doing part of what I otherwise would. In fact, were it not for my present shape I would have this half done now entirely by myself. I got the idea, which is based on one of an earlier period, immediately, spoke of student help also immediately, and more formally two weeks ago. Fortunately, the response was not official until Friday, which was after I spoke to you and you agreed.

The key to the whole thing, as I see it and as it is within the book rather than what is done with it, is in the natural self-satire. And as with all else that now occupies my mind pretty thwroughly, I will be thinking of things and setting them aside.

Before I forgetm please thank your dad. (What a long non-interruption for today!)

Should it be possible and should you both want it, by all means bring Richard when you come.

Also, should Dick not proceed with this, we will each have the right to this owrk. This also means that you could, through me.

I feel it would be unwise to ask Dick now for added money for travel and phones. If the project succeeds, it will not be a problem. If it does not, I will assume this as a personal responsibility, assuming the time comes when I can meet it. As of now you know that I cannot.

(BY t e way, if Richard enjoys simple and hot particularly heavy outdoor work and would not be helping you, should he come, <u>would</u> he be welcome for some things I have not been able to get to. Like putting locust borders around flowerbeds and stumps to be made into flowerbed so I wont tear any mowver nad/or myself up.)

One other thing I want to address before there can be another interruption. You are uncertain about telling your folks. I have not had time to think this through so I repeat my instinctive reaction when I first read this, hours ago. I see no need at this juncture, nothing to be goined by doing it now, and because you will soon be away from home and because I share your apprehension, I suggest that you consider delaying it as long as possible. Perhaps at the least until after you are out of law school. In matters like this I tend to believe that unless there is a need or a positive gain to be expected, the best course is to do nothing. As an example, in an entirely different area, you know that I have filed no single FOI suit where I was not absolutely certain I knew what the material I sought had to be and show. There is no need to take unnecessary chances and their reaction is chancey. It may trouble them much, too.

Perhaps there are other matters I should address, but it is now almost 3 and I'll have to go for Lil soon, so if I have forgotten anything it can await further correspondence or personal discussion. I would refer back to one thing, no, two. Long ago I asked you about girls, remember? So it is no shock. And what I really meant at the beginning is your use of the word "love" in quotes. If it is only of a flower, no quotes!

Best,